(b) whether Government have a proposal to give some relaxation for the Tribal Candidates in the qualification/ age, etc. for the same in the selection procedure; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING AND DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS' WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Information is not centrally maintained.

(b) and (c) Under the existing reservation policy, relaxation in the upper age limit by five years is permissible to SCs/STs candidates in direct recruitment. Instructions also exists for relaxing the norms of selection for SCs/STs candidates in the matters of direct recruitment.

SCs/STs in Government Services

3612. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state

(a) what is the percentage of population of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Country;

(b) what percentage of Class I, II and III posts of Central Government are held by SCs and STs; and

(c) what is the backlog in each class of posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING AND DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS' WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) As per 1991 census figures, the percentage of population of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the country was 16.48% and 8.08% respectively.

(b) As per information received from most of the Ministries/Departments, the representation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled tribes in Group A, Group B and Group C of Central Government services as on 01.01.1998 was as under:—

Group	SC(%)	ST(%)
A	10.38	3.21
B	11.73	2.68
C	15.99	5.95

(c) Information relating to backlog of each class of reserved posts determined with reference to posts based rosters is not centrally maintained.

Dismissal of CBI cases for want of evidences

3613. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases filed by CBI during the last five years have been dismissed for want of evidence;

(b) whether in some of the cases, the courts had to express regrets on insufficient grounds or lack of substantive evidence; and

(c) Whether Government propose to modify the law to prevent frivolous prosecution of the so called accused for years together on insufficient grounds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING AND DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS' WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE):(a) During the last five years viz. 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998 & 1999, 643 cases resulted in acquittal, out of the charge-sheets filed by the Central Bureau of Investigation.

(b) During the last five year, the Courts had passed strictures in 8 cases.

(c) Cases are registered by CBI in accordance with the legal provisions and investigated under the close supervision of senior officers. Legal advice is obtained wherever required. A Charge-sheet is filed in a court of law only where sufficient evidence is available to prosecute the accused after thorough scrutiny of available evidence. Due care is taken to avoid frivolous prosecution or prosecuting anyone against whom there are insufficient grounds.

Merger of various departments to reduce the size of administration

†3614. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
DR. D. MASTHAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently decided to merge certain departments in order to reduce the size of official machinery;

(b) if so, the names of such departments alongwith the assessment of the number of employees to be retrenched as a result of the merger of these departments, categorywise; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.